Peace Process Support

What is CSO's role in peace processes?

The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) helps diplomats prevent or respond to conflict and facilitate post-conflict stability. Specifically, CSO supports efforts to promote conflict resolution through peace processes. 42% of peace agreements fail within the first five years. Even strong agreements can fail during implementation. CSO ensures U.S. diplomats have access to best practices and expertise on peace processes. The Bureau supports peace processes from start to finish: before parties come to the negotiating table, while parties are working to reach a peace agreement, and as peace agreements are implemented. In 2016, CSO designed and funded more than $10 million in programs supporting peace processes.

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What is the Peace Process Support Network?

CSO established a Peace Process Support Network of 37 leading NGOs and academic institutions. These groups advise on building parties' negotiating capacity, security guarantees, power sharing and decentralization arrangements, and peace agreement implementation. The network conducts research and analysis and implements programs to advance peace processes.

Where is CSO working?

CSO is working through U.S. embassies and partner organizations on every continent. Here is a sampling of CSO's work supporting peace processes.

Burundi: CSO is providing support for dialogue between parties to the conflict in Burundi. These funds aid an inclusive political process and prepare political parties to participate in inter-party dialogue. Partners including the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and the Burundi Leadership Training Program are implementing this project. Additionally, CSO provided a peace process expert to support the work of the office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes.

Colombia: CSO provided a grant to the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame to monitor the implementation of a final peace accord and provide updates to the Colombian government and the State Department. Drawing on a database of 34 peace agreements, the Kroc Institute will provide examples of how other countries addressed obstacles to peace accord implementation. The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are consulting about next steps since the vote against the peace accord.

Libya: CSO is contributing to the United Nations Stabilization Facility for Libya to support conflict analysis and dispute resolution efforts. The Bureau also awarded a grant to examine armed groups. The program will result in insights about armed actors, their supporters, the risks these groups represent to the Libyan Political Agreement, and how to mitigate those risks.

Yemen: CSO is funding security sector experts to advise on ceasefire design and transitional security. Additional support will examine the role of local actors in the conflict and their influence networks, as well as provide support to ceasefire monitoring and dispute resolution during the implementation of a peace agreement.

Photo by U.S. Military